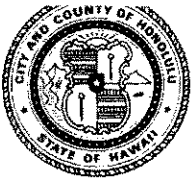


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FROM: COUNCIL DELA CRUZ



# CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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## **Councilmembers Tackling Affordable Housing Crisis** *Dela Cruz and Kobayashi introduce legislation pushing City to actively address Oahu's affordable housing crisis*

**Honolulu:** Last November the City and County was sent a strong message from the voting public: Do something about the lack of affordable housing on Oahu. City Council members Donovan Dela Cruz and Ann Kobayashi are heeding the public's call for action by introducing an affordable housing legislative package. The set of bills and resolutions introduced are aimed at preserving and expanding affordable housing on Oahu. This package includes:

- Adopting an inclusionary zoning policy – providing density bonus for developers who build more than the required number of affordable units in new residential developments, requiring affordable rentals remain affordable for prescribed number of years, and waiving building and connection fees for affordable units.
- Limiting the use of *in-lieu fees* by developers to buy out of building actual affordable rental/fee simple units.
- Adopting an affordable housing policy for the use of the Affordable Housing Fund.
- Providing real property tax exemptions for property owners who rent out their property at an affordable rate as determined by Department of Community Services.
- Urging the adoption of the suggestions of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.

"Far too often I think the City has given lip-service to affordable housing without actively being part of the equation to solve the problem. I'm tired of seeing families from my district spending months living out of a car, or at friends' or family's houses because they can't find an affordable place to live – we can do more," says Dela Cruz.

The legislation introduced by the Councilmembers pulls from policies and measures which have been successful in expanding affordable housing in similar urban areas across the United States – including Denver, San Francisco, San Diego, and Santa Fe.

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“We’re looking forward to working with all interested parties to make these proposals work. We as a council need to be proactive and develop a focused plan on how to affect change when it comes to affordable housing – this legislation attempts to do that,” said Kobayashi.

All bills and resolutions are accessible from the City Council website:

<http://www.honolulu.gov/council/ord.htm>